

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 22 and ending on page 9, line 7 of the Substitute Specification filed on February 1, 2006, with the following redlined paragraph:

Fig. 3 shows a block diagram of the most preferred method of the invention. The base station starts by choosing the first frequency in the ordered list and sets $j = 1$ in step 300. Then, the base station sends out RF energy a frequency f_j for a time sufficient for a single tag to respond in step 310. In decision step 320, the base station decides whether one or more tags responded. If one or more tags responded, another decision step ~~320-330~~ decides whether the total time t_j spent sending out frequency f_j exceeds a maximum time limit t_{max} for sending out a single frequency at the power sent. Government regulations prohibit power of over a certain limit being sent out for more than a defined time. The protocol sets a maximum time limit t_{max} (also referred to as the protocol time limit, which may optionally depend on power sent out) for sending out one frequency, and when that time limit has been exceeded, the index j is changed to $j + 1$ in step 340, and the system returns to step 310 to send out another frequency f_{j+1} in the list. If no tags responded in step 320, the system goes immediately to step 340 and changes frequency to the next frequency f_{j+1} in the list.